

## THE MOST FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY

In the History of the National Capital is the Result of the Government's Parsimony and Neglect.

## THE OLD FORD THEATRE, USED AS A GOVERNMENT OFFICE,

And Containing Over Five Hundred Clerks, Collapses, and Awful Scenes of Death, Injury and Destruction Follow—The Building Had Been Condemned by Congress as an Unsafe Place to Store War Records, but Human Lives Were Counted as of Less Value—The Theatre in Which Lincoln Was Assassinated in Ruins and Many of the Nation's Employees Are Killed and Maimed—Awful Scenes After the Disaster During the Work of Rescue—Many of the Injured Will Die—Deeds of Heroes—Some Remarkable Escapes—A Strange Coincidence—Other Buildings Where Thousands of Men and Women Are Employed, Also in Danger.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—Hundreds of men carried down by the falling walls of a building which was notoriously insecure. Human lives crushed out by tons of bricks and iron, and sent unheralded to the throne of their Maker. Men by the score maimed and disfigured for life. Happy families buried in the depths of despair; women calling for their husbands; children calling for their fathers; mothers calling for their sons; not an answer to a cry!

This is but a shadow of the awful calamity that befell this city this morning. Words cannot picture the awfulness of the accident. The imagination stands back and fails to give any idea of the scene.

Its horrors will never be fully told. Its suddenness was almost the chief horror. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, there was a change, and men who came to the scene of their daily toil this morning will never return alive. Women who kissed their loved ones this morning as they separated will have but the cold, bruised faces to kiss to-night.

Other cities have felt the visitations of awful calamities. They have been swept by fire and deluged by flood, and plagues have decimated their communities. In the national capital of the proudest nation of the earth there has been a catastrophe unparalleled in the annals of its history, and in every mind there is the horrible conviction that its genesis is to be found in the criminal negligence of a government too parsimonious to provide for the safety of its loyal servants by erecting buildings proper for their accommodation.

## HOW IT OCCURRED.

It was between 9:30 and 10 o'clock this morning that the floors of the old Ford's theatre building on Tenth street, occupied by the records and pension division of the office of the surgeon general of the United States army, fell in as though they had been the cards of a card house. On each floor there were scores of men at work. Without warning they were carried down as by an awful cataract. The floor was made up of iron girders, hardly strong enough to support the walls, but heavy enough, heaven knows, to stamp out human lives; of bricks that were held together by plaster long since dried out; of wooden beams that had been in place too long. There was no escape from such a flood.

The government of a great nation could not afford to provide a safe building for its faithful employees, but herded them together in a building whose unsound condition was notorious. Again and again have the columns of the press been filled with the story of the rotten walls.

There is shame and remorse on the souls of some men who were responsible for the state of things that confined men who were working for their daily bread in a building that every one in the city of Washington knew was unsafe.

## NOT THE FIRST.

Twenty-eight years ago there was another tragedy within the walls of this building. The news of it was flashed to the four quarters of the earth and it brought consternation wherever it went. The man who was killed was the President of the United States.

As though the building had borne a curse upon it from that time, it ended its career in a fitting manner. But how much better it would have been if the government had removed the structure years ago.

Those in the multitude, who could think of something beside the catastrophe alone, remarked upon the strange coincidence that the building in which John Wilkes Booth slew President Lincoln should fall and kill scores of people on the very day that the body of the assassin's brother was being laid to its final rest.

There was no connection between the events, but the superstitious shuddered and the strong minded commented.

The evidence, as found in official records, appears conclusive that as long ago as 1855 this building, which the government purchased after the assassination, and used as an army infirmary, was officially proclaimed by congress as an unsafe depository for even the human skeletons, mummies and bones of the army medical museum, for which a safer place of storage was provided by act of congress. But notwithstanding the fact that in the public press, and in congress also, continued attention was called to the bulging walls of the building and its darkness and general unsuitability and unsafety, it continued to be used for the employment of nearly 500 government clerks in the pension record division of the war office.

Will the lesson be heeded? The building collapsed in the midst of an ill judged effort to remedy some of its defects. The moral of the disaster is emphasized by the fact that there are known to be at least two great government buildings—the government printing office and the Windsor annex of the war department, each containing many more employees than were caged in the Ford's Theatre death trap, which are in an equally dangerous condition.

While the work of rescue was going on, men who had been strangers to emotion were like children, and turned away their faces as the limp and lifeless bodies of those who had been crushed beneath the ruins were brought forth to the sunshine they would see no more upon this earth forever. Women were helped away in a fainting condi-

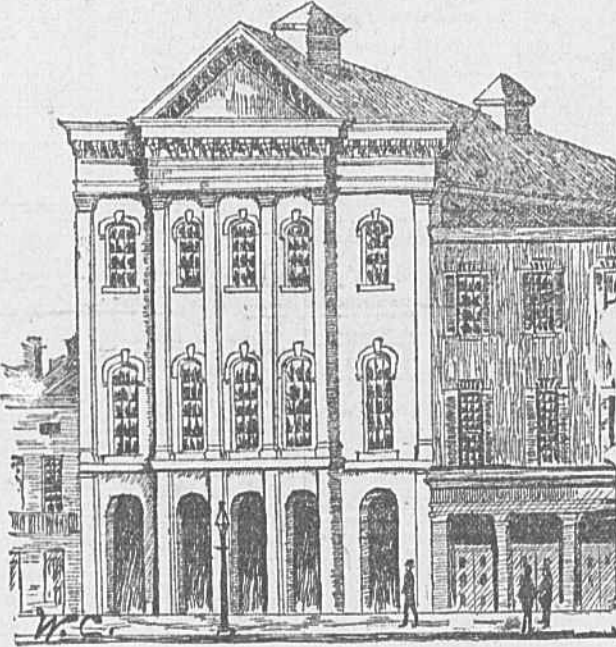
tion, and in every heart there was sorrow, and in every eye stood the moisture of grief.

## DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT.

The Awful Collapse—Work of Rescue. How It Occurred—Thrilling Scenes and Deeds of Bravery.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 9.—Ford's old theatre, the building in which Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and used by the government for many years as part of the office of the surgeon-general of the army, collapsed this morning shortly after 9:30 o'clock with a terrible result in loss of life and injury. The building stood on Tenth street, northwest, between E and F streets, and not far from Pennsylvania avenue. It had been condemned years ago, some claim as many as 15 or 20, and had been repaired propped up and renovated from year to year.

There were 534 persons, 490 of them government clerks, employed in the building, and nearly all of them were at work when the building fell. An excavation for an electric light plant was being made in the cellar of the structure—a three story affair, and according to the best information obtainable the workmen this morning had dug beneath the foundation supports in the front of the building, weakening them



OLD FORD THEATRE.  
[Where Lincoln was Killed and the Scene of Yesterday's Disaster.]

to such an extent that the walls gave way before they could be jacked. This explanation of the accident is the only one advanced, but it seems somewhat strange in view of the fact that the top floor gave way first. Men who were in the building say the crash came without warning. Those on the top floor were suddenly precipitated to the floor below. The weight of falling timber and furniture carried the second and first floors with it. Fortunately only the forward half of the floors gave way. The outer ends of the floors and the rear part of the structure remained intact. The walls did not fall.

## WORK OF RESCUE.

A general fire alarm was turned in a few minutes after the crash, and then all the ambulances in the city were summoned. As quickly as possible the police and firemen formed a reserve brigade, and ready hands assisted them to take out the killed and wounded. In less than an hour about twenty-five people had been taken out, and every few minutes thereafter some still form would be borne on a stretcher from the building. Police and army ambulances, cabs, carriages and vehicles of every description were pressed into service for carrying away the dead and injured. All the hospitals in the city were utilized in caring for the injured, and scores of physicians volunteered their services for this work.

Both the military and naval authorities took prompt action. General Schofield ordered two troops of cavalry from Fort Meyer, just across the river, and two companies of infantry from the arsenal to the scene of the disaster. The secretary of the navy ordered out all the naval medical officers stationed here, and also opened the naval hospital to receive the injured.

## THE RUSH TO ESCAPE.

When the first rumbling warning of the approaching collapse came, the clerks on the third floor, to the number of eighty or one hundred, rushed to the windows and jumped for the roof of a small building adjoining the northwest side. Many of them escaped in this way. George M. Arnold, a colored clerk from Virginia, was seen at the third story window. He was warned not to jump, but despite the protestations of numbers of people he climbed out and lowering himself from the sill let go. He fell upon a covering at a lower door and slid on to the cobblestoned alley, striking on his head, instantly killing him. His head was mashed to a jelly and the cobbles for a distance of several yards were bespattered with blood.

One of the bravest and most daring incidents connected with the calamity was performed by a colored boy 19 or 20 years of age, named Basil Lockwood. As soon as the floors collapsed and the dust cleared away, realizing the danger of those at the rear windows who were

wildly climbing out and calling for aid, he climbed up a large telegraph pole as high as the third story and lashed a ladder to the pole, putting the other end in the window. By this means ten or fifteen were assisted down the ladder in safety.

The question of the responsibility of the accident is of course already earnestly discussed. Assistant Secretary Grant was one of the first officials to visit the scene of the disaster, and immediately gave orders by telephone and mounted messengers to the officers of the department to render all possible aid. General Grant said to a reporter, speaking under pressure of great emotion:

"I am appalled at the magnitude of the disaster. It is impossible for me to say anything as to the cause of the accident, for I know nothing of the condition of the building."

No women were employed in the building, but in a few minutes after the crash came the wives, mothers and daughters of the victims began to arrive. Within a very few moments a hundred or more men stripped for hot work jumped into the building and began throwing out the wreckage in front of and under the floors which remained standing on the rear. Most of those in the ruins were carried to the emergency hospital.

## BRAVE CLERGYMEN.

An incident of the day was the number of clergymen who on hearing of the disaster flocked to the scene. Utterly regardless of their own safety, they entered the building, the rear walls of which were warningly bulging out, and ministered to the dying and injured. Ministers of all creeds were present.

The hair breadth escapes narrated by the survivors were numberless. One of the most thrilling scenes of the whole affair was the sight of a dozen men who were left in a corner of the third story clambering down a hose pipe to the ground. One of these men and the first to get down was Mr. E. Bair, who worked in the centre of the third floor. The story can best be told in his own words:

"I was at my desk," he said, "when I heard a great roar. There was no preliminary trembling or any kind of warning; just a roar and crash and the desks and tables seemed to raise up in the center of the floor and then disappear in a blinding cloud of white dust. I sprang from the rear window and

mediately ran up to the windows. In reality the time was only a few minutes. The firemen rescued all those who had not escaped by jumping from the windows.

The last man taken out of the building alive was Capt. Dowd, of Indiana. He was found near the southwest corner of the building covered to a depth of two or three feet with brick and mortar. He had lain there for three hours, but a falling beam had lodged near him in such a position as to break the fall of the brick and timbers and when lifted up he raised his hand, showing that he was conscious. When he was lifted into the Garfield hospital ambulance the crowd saw that he was alive and cheered again and again.

The ambulances were kept busy carrying away the dead and injured. The faces of many of the victims were covered with pieces of cloth, an old coat, a newspaper, or whatever else could be had, but some of the mangled bodies were carried out with their faces exposed to the gaze of the great throng that surrounded the building.

All during the long hours while the workmen were working with all their strength to rescue such as were not past help, the mothers, sisters and daughters of those who had gone down hovered around the front of the building, and with streaming eyes inquired of all whom they met of some tidings of their dear ones. Some could hardly be restrained from pushing their way into the building.

A look into the interior told a sickening tale of how some were taken and others left. Desks were seen toppling over the brink of the broken floors, others stood upright, but the chairs which stood behind it and its occupant went down with a crash. Records and papers were scattered everywhere, but as fast as possible they were gathered up and saved. Many of them were spotted with blood.

## SEEMS A MIRACLE.

That any one should have escaped with his life seems the work of a miracle. As they were brought forth they presented a spectacle that no one seeing it will ever forget. In many cases the semblance to humanity was gone. It seemed as though the helpers were carrying out mere bags of matter, smeared all over with blood, filthy with dirt, dirt ground into them, blood on their faces.

A wife could not have recognized her husband in that condition. With such tenderness as rough and excited men could summon at such a time, they were laid out upon stretchers and carried to the ambulances that filled the street from E to F streets. All the doctors could do for them there was to clear away some of the dirt, plaster and filth from the faces of the injured men. In many cases the dirt was ground into the eyes, noses and mouths, so that without such attention men might have suffocated. Many were unconscious and could not have helped themselves. With a clang of the bell, the ambulances started off for the hospitals. These were soon overcrowded. Drug stores were turned into temporary hospitals. People in the neighborhood of the accident opened their doors right gladly, and the dead and the wounded were hurried in.

## DEEDS OF HEROISM.

When the accident was over, and before the rescuers could get inside to them, there were injured men who were caring for their worse injured brothers. There were men who did not rush for the street to save their own lives. Regardless of the fact that more walls might fall and bury them once more, they stayed to succor men who could not get away by themselves.

When the first of the relief corps entered the building they were especially struck by the silence that prevailed. There were no cries to be heard from beneath the debris. If any cries were made they were stifled by dirt and mortar that made almost a solid floor on which one might walk. Nervously and excitedly they tore away beams and rafters that made a tomb. It was a horrid task; it was a dirty task. Men worked like demons, with sweat pouring down their faces. The dust and dirt lay thick on their faces so no one could scarcely tell the color of the man. The trim uniforms of the men were ruined and battered, but never for a moment did they stop in their noble work. Every moment the throwing aside of wreckage exposed the bloody and often mutilated form of some one of the victims. Occasionally one of them revived sufficiently to need but little assistance to the outer air, but the majority of them, dusty, bruised, with clothing torn almost in tatters, were carried into the clear atmosphere and through the sorrowing crowd to the ambulances and patrol wagons that were in waiting.

As the bleeding and mangled bodies were brought out groans and outcries arose on all hands. The surrounding houses, drug stores and business places were filled in a short time by bleeding and groaning men.

As a mangled body was brought out, in nine cases out of ten it would be surrounded by weeping friends. The persons who were evidently dead were laid aside, while those who possessed life were brought out.

One man was found sticking head first in the debris. His legs were seen first. Soon they uncovered his legs, which moved feebly, showing he was still alive. As fast as human hands could work those rescuers did, and soon they had the unfortunate man out. He was alive when he was brought into the air, but he died before he reached the ambulance in the street. This was but one of the many shocking scenes attending the most horrible and inexcusable accident that ever occurred in the city of Washington.

The general opinion is that the accident was caused directly by the weakening of the already shaky structure by reason of excavations made beneath it for an electric lighting system. It was stated this afternoon that several days ago the clerks in the building circulated a petition protesting against this work being continued, as they considered that it imperilled the life of every man who was working in the building.

## MEN WORTH MORE THAN PAPERS.

This afternoon the firemen turned a stream of water into the building. This was done to lay the dust so that the work of clearing away could be better accomplished. A dyed-in-the-wool government clerk objected to this procedure, because, he said, the place was stored with important government papers, which would be ruined by water. A man who was standing beside him shouted back excitedly: "We don't care a d—n for the pa-

[Continued on Second Page.]

## THE BORDEN TRIAL.

A Sensation Caused by Officer Fleet's Testimony

## REGARDING THE HATCHET HANDLE

Which Has Figured So Much in the Case—Another Officer Testifies that the Prisoner Was Not in Tears During His Interview With Her on the Day of the Murder—Miss Lizzie Nervous During the Examination.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., June 9.—Miss Borden this morning did not watch the testimony carefully, but was much interested in Adam's examination of previous testimony and the inspection of several law books. Robinson made a skillful and long examination of Officer Fleet and disclosed the fact that the other hatchets than the handless hatchet were found in the box by the chimney, and that there were piles of ashes in the room.

The handless hatchet was found on the witness's second visit to the cellar on the day of the murder. Witness also admitted that the search in the house that day was not very thorough.

Officer Harrington was next called. During his testimony as to the condition of the bodies, the prisoner looked down and nervously fingered her black fan. He testified that the prisoner said she left her father reading a paper and after twenty minutes found him dead; and that she said the motive was not robbery, as everything was right about the house.

Officer Harrington also testified that the prisoner was not in tears during the interview on the day of the murder, and that she was very positive as to the exact time she was in the barn.

The only matter of importance brought out at the opening of the afternoon session was the fact that the broken part of the handle of the small hatchet which was missing was seen by Officer Mullaney and the government professed ignorance of the piece. Mullaney said Fleet found it and put it back with the hatchet.

During Fleet's testimony he never referred to the matter and considerable surprise was felt and expressed. Fleet was recalled and examined, although the government objected. He said he never saw anything there in the nature of a piece of handle with a fresh break in it. A sensation was caused by this testimony.

District Attorney Knowlton, on being asked for this extra piece of handle said he did not have it, and this was the first time he had ever heard of it.

Mr. Knowlton said he desired to have some one sent to Fall River to the Borden house to see if this piece of wood referred to above was in the box; all he wanted was justice.

"That's all we want," said Governor Robinson.

"Well, you have not any objection to our sending an officer there to see about it, have you?" asked Mr. Knowlton. "No such question has arisen yet," said Gov. Robinson, "and we will pass it now unless the court rules against it." The court decided it was not necessary to proceed any further just now. Court soon after adjourned.

## THE AMALGAMATED SCALE.

It is Completed and Ready for Presentation to the Manufacturers.

PITTSBURGH, PA., June 9.—The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, in session here, completed the wage scale for the ensuing year today, and it is now ready for presentation to the manufacturers. The scale, as adopted, provides for the same rates in all departments of all iron and steel mills in which the association is recognized as prevailed during the past twelve months. This decision was reached after a discussion lasting but forty-eight hours. The price of puddling is \$5.50 per ton, based on the two-cent card rate of the western iron association. The scale further provides:

"First—That iron mills (except sheet mills) working steel shall pay price and one-half for steel, but this shall not apply to mild steel; that is, working that steel of which the output of the mill shall be as great as when working iron of the same sizes; but when the output of steel is but three-fourths of the output of iron the rule of price and one-half shall apply.

"Second—On all mills working iron or steel weighing 100 pounds or over extra help shall be furnished to the heater, the same to be paid by the company.

"Third—The time in scrapping and busheting, also finishing departments, shall in no case exceed 9 hours and 15 minutes from the regular time the mill begins to roll until the first furnace commences to charge the last heat. This shall not apply to mills working shorter charging hours; this is not to apply to boiling departments (except scrapping and busheting) also other departments working under the three turn system. The time for meals in following up mills shall not be counted in.

"Fourth—Whenever deviations from the western iron scale signed for by any manufacturer and the Amalgamated Association are made, and evidence is produced to prove it, the Amalgamated Association and manufacturers agree to make every effort to correct the same, provided the trains and furnaces are similar, but if the deviations continue to be tolerated by the Amalgamated Association all other mills shall receive the same. All manufacturers and workmen governed by this scale hereby agree not to make any deviations from the scale agreed to.

"Fifth—That mills may work three turns in twenty-four hours when practicable."

## MUCH BLOODSHED

In the Riot at Leamont—Three Killed and Fourteen Wounded.

LEAMONT, ILL., June 9.—The first week of the strike in the quarries and on the drainage canal closed with a copious shedding of blood.

The conflict came at noon, and as the result of a volley of shots one man was killed outright, two were dead since, two others are reported missing, said to have fallen in the canal after receiving mortal wounds, and fourteen others wounded, three fatally.

The feeling in Leamont to-night was that the day's work is a death blow to the strike. Though many were found who expect more trouble, the strikers do not talk revenge.

## PRINCESS EULALIA

Becoming Americanized—She Visits the Fair Without Putting on Royal Airs. The Associated Press Daily World's Fair Special.

CHICAGO, June 9.—To the great dismay of a few self-styled aristocrats and to the extreme delight of the people of Chicago in general and the thousands of visitors, Eulalia, the infanta of Spain, went to the World's Fair to-day without any military escort and without any of the fuss ceremony that royalty are usually supposed to require. The democratic little princess was accompanied by three or four of her friends and she laughed and had fun and enjoyed the sights just as any sensible American young woman would.

Commander and Mrs. Davis and Mrs. J. L. M. Curry, wife of the ex-minister to Spain, were the original party, but as they were about to start Hobart Chatfield-Taylor and his wife came in and they were invited to join the merry making.

The princess said she wanted to see the sights of Midway Plaisance, of which she had heard so much. She had her way, and up the plaisance they went, unheralded and unattended.

After walking to the extreme west end of the plaisance the princess wanted to ride in one of the rolling chairs, and chairs were procured for all the ladies of the party. The party then visited the Chinese theatre and the Egyptian temple, and as they were about to leave the plaisance they entered the Irish village. Eulalia listened with delight to Miss Sullivan perform Irish melodies on the harp of Erin's isle, and applauded the performances generously at its close.

When it came time to go back to the hotel, the princess was loth to leave. She declared she had never had a better time in her life. To-morrow she will again visit the fair, but this time it will be a ceremonious visit and there will be bands of music to greet her and dignified committees to meet her.

The bureau of admissions announced this afternoon that the official count showed that 169,016 visitors paid admission to the fair yesterday, and that near 40,000 workmen's concessionaries, exhibitors and press passes were used, making the total number of people at the park over 200,000.

## SUNDAY OPENING.

An Appeal from the Decision of the Circuit Court.

CHICAGO, June 9.—Judge Woods, in the United States circuit court, decided this morning to allow the World's Columbian Exposition an appeal from the decision yesterday granting an injunction against Sunday opening of the fair. The time and place of hearing the appeal will be fixed by Chief Justice Fuller. Application for a supersedeas which would suspend effect of the injunction pending a hearing on the appeal was refused, leaving yesterday's decision in force.

Judges Jenkins and Grosscup have not spoken in regard to the appeal and a decision has not been made.

Attorney Walker, representing the exposition directors, moved for a suspension of the order when it should be entered and began a long argument in support of the motion.

After hearing Mr. Walker's argument, Judge Woods announced that the order for injunction was entered in accordance with the decision of yesterday.

## EDWIN BOOTH'S FUNERAL.

The Solemn Ceremonies Over the Body of the Great Tragedian.

NEW YORK, June 9.—The funeral services over the remains of Edwin Booth were held this morning at 10 o'clock at the Church of the Transfiguration. Seldom has the "Little Church Around the Corner" been so completely filled from chance to porch as it was this morning an hour before the funeral procession was expected.

Actors, artists, men of letters, men whose names are known as foremost in their professions on both sides of the Atlantic, men of millions, men whom the great crowd outside the quaint churchyard pushed and squeezed and craned their necks, all were there to join in the ceremony and the requiem to the peace-departed soul "of the greatest Hamlet of them all."

The funeral procession was half an hour late and the suspense at the church was painful. Within every seat was occupied and the aisles were full of people who were glad to stand.

Finally the carriages containing the pall bearers arrived. A few moments after the organ music could be heard. It was Chopin's funeral march, and at its first notes the congregation arose, the solemn words of the Episcopal burial service coming at the same time from the porch as the procession entered the main aisle.

The service was the usual one. Then the same procession and the parting strains of the dead march in Saul, and the start for the grand central depot, and Edwin Booth had made his last exit.

Bishop Potter officiated, and was assisted by Dr. Houghton, rector of the church, and Dr. Blapham, a friend of the great actor.

At the grand central depot a special train took the party to Boston. Interment was at Mt. Auburn.

## CONDENSED TELEGRAMS.

Postmaster General Bissell wants fourth-class postmasters to be selected by the people by popular vote.

Gov. Altgeld, of Illinois, has ordered out the Second regiment to quell the labor trouble at Lament and Rome.

Secretary of War Lamont, who is visiting the World's Fair, received a telegram informing him of the disaster in Washington. He left for the capital last evening.

The immense coal trestles and iron storage sheds of the Philadelphia & Reading R. R. Co. at Buffalo, said to be the largest plant of its kind in the world, were almost entirely destroyed by fire last evening.

Weather Forecast for To-day. For West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Ohio fair, except showers near the lake; cooler near the lake; westerly winds.

THE TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY. As furnished by C. Schaefer, draught, corner Market and Fourteenth streets.  
7 a. m., 62; 8 a. m., 63; 9 a. m., 65; 10 a. m., 67; 11 a. m., 68; 12 m., 69; 1 p. m., 70; 2 p. m., 71; 3 p. m., 72; 4 p. m., 73; 5 p. m., 74; 6 p. m., 75; 7 p. m., 76; 8 p. m., 77; 9 p. m., 78; 10 p. m., 79; 11 p. m., 80; 12 m., 81.

## DIED.

KRAUS—On Friday, June 9, 1893, at 11 o'clock P. M., CHARLES KRAUS, aged 18 years. Funeral notice hereafter.